

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett *Donsey Bulok, Henry Puhert*

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference

Date: November 25, 2019

Referred to: HEALTH Committee

*Middleton
Clarke
J.P.
Paisinger*

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

CITY COUNCIL 19-0183R

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Informational Hearing – Fish Kills

FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

Edmund Reese
R. Donsey
John White
William G.
Kevin
Margaret Lake
Shawn M. [unclear]
Lee [unclear]

****The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

Agencies

Department of Public Works

Department of Real Estate

Department of Recreation and Parks

Department of Transportation

Fire Department

Health Department

Mayor's Office of Employment Development

Mayor's Office of Human Services

Mayor's Office of Information Technology

Office of the Mayor

Police Department

Other:

Other:

Baltimore City Public School System

Baltimore Development Corporation

City Solicitor

Comptroller's Office

Department of Audits

Department of Finance

Department of General Services

Department of Housing and Community Development

Department of Human Resources

Department of Planning

Other:

Other:

Other:

Board of Estimates

Board of Ethics

Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals

Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation

Commission on Sustainability

Employees' Retirement System

Other:

Other:

Other:

Environmental Control Board

Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System

Labor Commissioner

Parking Authority Board

Planning Commission

Wage Commission

Other:

Other:

Other:

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 19-0183R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Dorsey, Bullock, Henry, Pinkett, Middleton, Clarke,
President Scott, Councilmember Reisinger
Introduced and read first time: December 2, 2019
Assigned to: Health Committee

Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: January 27, 2020

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Informational Hearing – Fish Kills

1
2 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an
3 informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead
4 Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

Recitals

5
6 WHEREAS, A Baltimore City water pipe broke under the Ingleside Avenue Bridge in
7 Woodlawn and dumped over 10 million gallons of chlorinated water into Dead Run stream
8 between September 7 and September 9, 2019; and

9 WHEREAS, Dead fish were found along a 2-mile stretch of Dead Run stream below the pipe;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the spill killed nearly
12 2000 fish, including 78 of the endangered American eel; and

13 WHEREAS, The fish were discovered 2 days after George Farrant, Vice President of Friends
14 Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park, reported to the City that gray water that smelled strongly of chlorine
15 was rushing into the stream; and

16 WHEREAS, the Maryland Department of the Environment found chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L,
17 or 8 times above the legal limit for a waterway, with chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L being
18 considered safe for human consumption; and

19 WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of the Environment found that the City Department of
20 Public Works, as owner of the pipe, was in non-compliance due to the elevated levels of chlorine
21 in the stream; and

22 WHEREAS, Last year the Maryland Department of the Environment cited the City for
23 dumping as much as 4 times the legal limit of chlorinated water from the Druid Lake reservoir
24 into the Jones Falls; and

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
Strike-out indicates matter stricken by amendment.

Council Bill 19-0183R

1 **WHEREAS**, The Baltimore City Council wants to know what the Department of Public Works
2 is doing to prevent fish kills and further spills of chlorinated water into streams and other bodies
3 of water.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
5 Council requests the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational
6 hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and
7 killed 2000 fish.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
9 Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: January 14, 2020

RESOLUTION #: 19-0183R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Informational Hearing – Fish Kills

MOTION BY: Henry SECONDED BY: Clarke

- FAVORABLE FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
 UNFAVORABLE WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Burnett, Kristerfer - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, Bill - Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarke, Mary Pat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reisinger, Edward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Isaac "Yitzy"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Kristerfer Burnett, *KL*

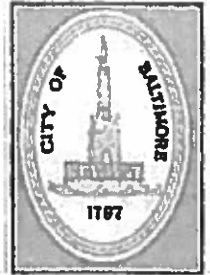
COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin, Initials: *M.M.C.*

FROM

NAME & TITLE: Rudolph S. Chow, P.E. Director
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS: Department of Public Works
600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
SUBJECT: City Council Resolution 19-0183R

CITY of BALTIMORE

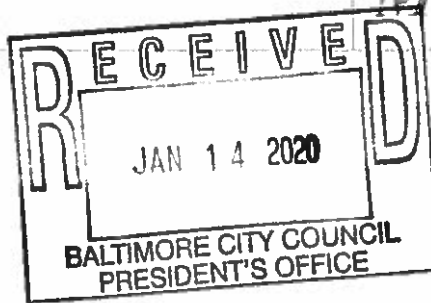
MEMO



January 10, 2020

TO:

Health Committee



INTRODUCTION

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 19-0183R introduced by Council Members Burnett, Dorsey, Bullock, Henry, Pinkett, Middleton, Clarke, President Scott, and Council Member Reisinger.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and a subsequent reported fish kill of 2,000 fish.

BRIEF HISTORY

On Saturday, September 7, 2019 a call was placed to Baltimore County regarding a broken water main underneath the Ingleside Avenue bridge in Baltimore County. The County directed the caller to reach out to Baltimore City to report the break, and the caller did report the incident via the City's 311 system, as directed, that same day. Within an hour of the receipt of the 311 Service Request, a Public Works Maintenance inspector responded, confirming that a 12-inch water main was broken at the location and discharging water into Dead Run stream. Isolating the break would require the closure of a valve, which would obviously impact residential and business customers for the duration of the repairs. Due to the size of the main and its location, it was determined that a contractor would need to be mobilized to make the repairs. As a result, the referral was made to the Office of Engineering and Construction (OEC) and the location was completed as expeditiously as possible. The work required coordination with Baltimore County Engineering, Baltimore County Traffic, Water Analyzer Office, Valve contractor, and the Maryland State Highway Administration.

- OEC received the location referral the morning of Monday, September 9, and the contractor was onsite scouting by 2 PM; joined by OEC and consulting engineer on site at 3:45 PM;
- Baltimore County Engineering and Construction was on site to investigate Ingleside Bridge integrity; County Traffic shutdown the bridge for safety;

Comments



05

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council

January 10, 2020

Page 2

- Valve contractor onsite at 3:45 PM to prepare isolating the 12 inch main and stop the leak, while contractor set up bypass (no bottled water was required during the repairs as the bypass kept the lack of water to a minimum);
- Main was partially isolated at 5 PM, affecting 6 services (5 residents on Ingleside and the restaurant at 1620 St Agnes);
- At 6:45 PM, valve contractor had to shut an additional valve in order to complete the shutdown of the 12-inch main, putting additional residents, including the Ingleside Gardens, out of water temporarily;
- OEC directed the contractor to abandon the 12" main and remove the 12 x 20" tee on Tuesday, September 10, and on Wednesday, September 11 excavation and preparations to repair began;
- All work was completed by the morning of Friday, September 13; Valve contractor restored water to the 20 inch main on Monday, September 16;
- The contractor needed additional parts to renew the service at 1620 St Agnes Lane, which required a shutdown; the shutdown was scheduled and completed on Friday, October 4.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) prepared a field report on September 9 detailing the fish kill attributed to the release of chlorinated water into Dead Run. MDE looked at three stream segments downstream of the water main leak, reporting a combined total of 187 dead fish. MDE applied a formula to each section of the stream, and, based on the formula, estimated a total fish kill of 1,946 fish. As a correction to the record, American eels are not a federal or State protected species. The Department of the Interior conducted an evaluation in 2015 and declined to list the eels as endangered or threatened.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION

Representative of the Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on this resolution to provide more detailed information and to answer any questions the Council Committee may have on City Council Resolution 19-0183R.


Should the Committee have any questions prior to the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins at 410-396-1960, or via email at Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov.



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC:MMC

Visit Our Website @ www.baltimorecity.gov

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rebecca Woods, Esq., Executive Director <i>RW</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Environmental Control Board 1 North Charles Street, 13 th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution # 19-0183R Informational Hearing – Fish Kills		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council

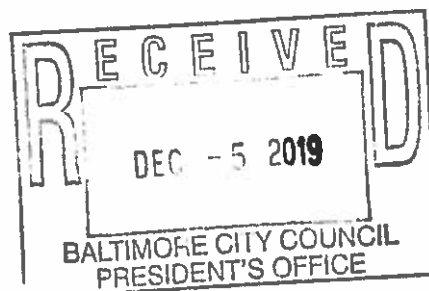
December 4, 2019

The Baltimore City Environmental Control Board (ECB) has been requested to review City Council Resolution # 19-0183R, Informational Hearing – Fish Kills. The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2,000 fish.

It is unclear why Resolution # 19-0183R was referred to the ECB. The spillage of chlorinated water and the subsequent citing of DPW by the Maryland Department of the Environment, a state agency, is unrelated to the ECB.

The ECB was not involved in any way and has no position on this resolution.

No position





e

City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Health

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

10:00 AM

Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall

19-0183R
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 4 - Kristerfer Burnett, Bill Henry, Mary Pat Clarke, and Edward Reisinger

Absent 1 - Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

19-0183R

Informational Hearing - Fish Kills

For the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

Sponsors: Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, John T. Bullock, Bill Henry, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Sharon Green Middleton, Mary Pat Clarke, President Brandon M. Scott, Edward Reisinger

A motion was made by Henry, seconded by Clarke, that City Council Resolution 19-0183R be recommended favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Burnett, Henry, Clarke, and Reisinger

Absent: 1 - "Yitzy" Schleifer

ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

HEARING NOTES

Council Resolution: 19-0185R

Informational Hearing – Fish Kills

Committee: Health

Chaired by: Kristerfer Burnett

Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Time (Beginning): 5:10 PM

Time (Ending): 7:25 PM

Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Chamber

Total Attendance: Approximately 20

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by:	Councilmember Henry		
Seconded by:	Councilmember Clarke		
Final Vote:	Favorable		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- George Farrant, Baltimore County Resident
- Marcia Collins, Department of Public Works
- Kim Grove, Department of Public Works
- Dan Sullivan, Department of Public Works
- Jack Lattimore, Speaker
- Alice Volpitta, Blue Water Baltimore

Major Issues Discussed

1. George Farrant gave testimony. He talked about the timeline for the discovery and turn off of the water spill and fish kill in the Dead Run River that occurred on and/or about

September 7, 2019. *A copy of the timeline documentation is in the bill file.* Some of highlights of his conversation were:

- It was a water main leak not a sewage leak
 - Called the 311 Center several times:
 - Received misinformation regarding who should address and resolve the water main leakage
 - Concerns
 - An untimely response to the situation; took too long to address and as a result over 2,000 fish were killed
 - Over 72 hours occurred before the water was turned off
 - Confusion as to who was responsible and the importance of the 311 Call Center knowing correct information when advising the public
 - More action needs to be taken during these type situations
2. Two (2) committee members thanked Mr. Farrant for reporting his concerns; one stated, “We wish we have someone like you at every stream!”
3. Marcia Collins, along with five (5) additional representatives from the Department of Public Works were in attendance. Ms. Collins gave testimony. *Copies of handouts received from the Department are in the bill file.* Some highlights from her conversation were:
- Mr. Farrant is correct, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for both the city and county water main breaks and that she will make sure the 311 Call Center understands same.
 - Talked about how DPW addresses water main breaks:
 - Must examine several factors before turning off water valves
 - Talked about some of the decisions/plans and outcomes associated with resolving issues and making repairs
 - Timeline for resolving the leak (*See handout in bill file*)
 - The city is obligated to keep a certain amount of chlorine in the water.
4. Committee members asked representatives from the DPW questions, made comments and/or stated concerns. Some highlighted questions, comments and/or concerns were:
- Asked for clarification about chlorine being in the water line
 - Is it routine (once received) for the timeline to address a water main break to take three (3) days? *Answer: It was a very large break; most of the time (in general) when there are smaller breaks the timeline is shorter unless the depth of excavation is deeper than normal.*
 - How long does it usually take to bring in an outside contractor? *Answer: It depends on the situation.*
 - Do you think that there was a breakdown in communication regarding this break?
 - How did the City communicate to all pertinent persons of concern (to community) that it was a water main break and not a sewage break?
 - Comment: It would help in the future if the 311 Call Center was made aware of the progress of situations to help relate information to the public. And, it would

also help if councilmembers are made aware of problems to assist in resolving issues (that is, “being a median for same, providing updates to constituents”)

- Comments regarding the importance of getting information in and out as needed and being more pro-active with communication
- Coordination efforts
 - Is there any on-going communication between the city and county regarding these type issues?
 - What happen to the city/county Regional Agreement?
 - Hopes that some type of quarterly regional meeting(s) could occur to share information
 - It sounds like it was a breakdown in communication for coordinating how to resolve the water main break
 - Are there ways you can improve the response time? **Answer: The DPW continues to share information with the County regarding its Capital Programs and Consent Decree.**
- Ecological Impact
 - Several comments regarding climate change
 - The importance of “consideration for the environment”
 - Is there a way to improve the response time when it has an ecological impact compared to when it has a residential impact? **Answer: Stated that an ecological impact is very critical! Talked about training provided to employees regarding same.**
 - How do you de-chlorinate water when it is running into a stream? **Answer: It was a large discharge that was under a stream. Also talked about how the system was flushed.**

5. Jack Lattimore gave testimony. Some highlights of his conversation were:

- Thanked the committee chairman for stating that this problem was an ecological issue
- Comments:
 - The State Pollution laws were violated
 - City was cited by the Department of Environment
 - Loss some endangered species
 - We don't want to see DPW fined but do want a remedy
 - DPW was on-site within an hour but did not send a crew out for 72 hours
 - Believes the larger/bigger the emergency, the faster it should be corrected

6. Alice Volpitta on behalf of Blue Water Baltimore testified. ***A copy of written testimony is in the bill file.*** Some highlights of her conversation were:

- I agree; it was an ecological disaster
- The breakdown started with the 311 Call Center; resulting in a bad situation becoming worse

- The American Eel:
 - Is amazed by them
 - Dozens were killed as a result of this incident; it did not have to happen
 - DPW must be held accountable
 - We are here today to make sure it does not happen again
 - A plan is needed and/or policy updates
 - 7. The chairman gave closing comments stating, "I will make a commitment to follow-up on the ecological issue and will talk with DPW staff and with other jurisdictions to see how they operate. There will be a vote today but this is not an end to conversations surrounding this issue. Vote taken.
-

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

1. See #7 above.
-

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: January 16, 2020

cc: Bill File

OCS Chrono File

Fish Kill Investigation- Field Report

Background		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>
Date of Investigation: 09/9/19		Time: 09:30
Water Body: Dead Run		Date of kill: 9/7/19
Nearest town/ landmark: Franklintown		Investigators: CAP, NWK
GPS coordinates:		Lat: 39.30447
Long: 76.69253		County: Baltimore City
Water body type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stream <input type="checkbox"/> Private Pond <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> River <input type="checkbox"/> Reservoir <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Estuary <input type="checkbox"/>		
Primary land use: <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Office/ shopping <input type="checkbox"/> Timber <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Mining <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban		
Activities in area of kill: A large fish kill occurred in the stretch of Dead Run from Ingleside Avenue down to the confluence with Gwynns Falls as a result of a large water main break at the Ingleside Avenue bridge in Franklintown on Saturday September 7. Approximately 1,946 died in this stretch involving six species of fish and crayfish. The pipe break was reported to the City on Saturday and reported to the MDE Duty Officer at 15:50 Sunday September 8.		

Weather

Weather during investigation: overcast	Air Temp: 84°F	Wind direction/ speed: calm
Other observations/ recent weather:		

Habitat/ Fauna

Water appearance (color/ odor): Stream has a strong odor of chlorine with a grayish/blue tint.
Substrate type/ appearance: N/A
Algae presence: Very little algae present on substrate
Other habitat observations: N/A
Presence/ behavior of live fish: a few live fish were observed in the lower section of the kill zone during the investigation. They appeared strong enough to evade capture. No dead fish were observed directly below the discharge because the flow was flushing dead fish downstream.
Presence/ types of aquatic invertebrates (order/ family/ relative abundance): No live invertebrates observed. Only dead crayfish were observed.

Water Quality

Station	Time	Depth (m)	Diss. O ₂ (ppm)	Temp °C	pH	Cond. (mS/cm)	Sal. (ppt)	% Saturation	Substrate/ other measurements
N/A									

Water Samples

Station	Time	Sampler	Analysis	Result
In Dead Run, immediately below discharge point	<1130	Joe Miller, MDE-WSA Compliance	Total Residual Chlorine	0.78 mg/l
In Dead Run, 1.4 miles downstream of discharge.	<1130	Joe Miller, MDE-WSA Compliance	Total Residual Chlorine	0.11 mg/l

Kill Information

Upper Limit: Ingleside Ave. Franklintown	Lower Limit: Confluence with Gwynns Falls	Stream miles (lake acres) affected: Approximately 1.67 miles			
Species affected	Size	# killed	Condition	\$/ea.	Value*
Central Stoneroller	3"	428	Dead 2 days	\$ 0.09	\$ 38.52
White Sucker	2-9"	311		\$ 1.355**	\$ 421.40
Longnose Dace	2-3"	1,011		\$ 0.09	\$ 90.99
Blacknose Dace	3"	58		\$ 0.09	\$ 5.22
Creek Chub	3"	20		\$ 0.09	\$ 1.80
American Eel	20"	78		\$ 2.37	\$ 184.86
Unknown fish Species		20		\$ 0.09	\$ 1.80
crayfish		20			
TOTAL		1,946			\$ 744.59
Suspected cause of kill: Chlorinated drinking water pipe break.					
Kill total or selective: kill appeared to affect most fish in Dead Run. A hand full seemed to be recovering					

MDE/TARSA
 Field Operations Program
 416 Chinquapin Round Road
 Annapolis, MD 21401

Fish Kill Investigation- Field Report

Condition of dead fish: 2 days dead	Symptoms of moribund fish: not observed
Additional Investigations: N/A	
Agencies (persons) involved: Joe Miller, WSA Inspection and Compliance	Phone #
Charles Poukish, Nick Kaltenbach, Bioregulatory Monitoring and Response Division	443-482-2732
Ronnie Daniels, Balt City Parks, was informed of the break on site at Leakin Park. He replied that he was aware of the discharge.	410-294-9946

Investigators: Charles Poukish
Nick Kaltenbach

Date: 9/10/19

* Values from: Southwick, R.I., and A.J. Loftus, editors. 2003. Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills. American Fisheries Society, Special Publication 30, Bethesda, MD.
 ** Assumes even size distribution.

calculations/ add'l notes: The affected length was divided into three sections. Each of the sections contained a station where fish counting and identification was conducted over a measured length of stream (using GPS)(see map). The total length of each section (984 yards) was divided by the length of the representative station within it yielding the number of station lengths within each section. Then the number of station lengths per section was multiplied by the number of dead fish per station, yielding the number of dead fish per section. Lastly the total numbers of dead fish in each section were added to yield total numbers of fish killed within the entire length of affected stream.

Section 1) DR -DR2, 6 dead fish observed in 75 yard station. $984 \text{ yards/section} \div 75 \text{ yards/station} = 13 \text{ stations/section}$,
 $6 \text{ fish/station} \times 13 \text{ stations/section} = 78 \text{ dead fish / Section 1}$

Section 2) DR2-DR4, 140 dead fish observed in 90 yard station. $984 \text{ yards/section} \div 90 \text{ yards/station} = 11 \text{ stations/section}$,
 $140 \text{ fish/station} \times 11 \text{ stations/section} = 1,540 \text{ dead fish / Section 2}$

Section 3) DR4- Gwynns Falls(DR-6), 41 dead fish observed in 125 yard station. $984 \text{ yards/section} \div 125 \text{ yards/station} = 8 \text{ stations/section}$,
 $41 \text{ fish/station} \times 8 \text{ stations/section} = 328 \text{ dead fish / Section 3}$.

This same formula was applied to the individually identified fish species....



January 13, 2020

Testimony to Baltimore City Health Committee

Re: City Council Bill 19-0183R (Resolution), an Informational Hearing Concerning Fish Kills

Dear Chairman Burnett and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on City Council Bill 19-0183R (Resolution), an informational hearing concerning a fish kill in the Dead Run. My name is Alice Volpitta, and I am the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper with Blue Water Baltimore, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities.

As the Waterkeeper, it's my job to speak for our local waters. In my work patrolling and monitoring Baltimore's waterways, I have seen large fish kills many times in the Baltimore Harbor and Patapsco River. The ironic thing about these fish kills is that they provide a glimpse into the life that teems below the surface - right up until it's driven out. The Harbor is alive with white perch, shad, blue crabs, rock fish, and beautiful pumpkinseed fish. Sometimes these fish kills are caused by thermal inversion events, a natural process that occurs in the spring and fall. But often they happen on the heels of a large algae bloom, the end result of excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus flowing into the Harbor via polluted stormwater and sewage overflows. Once the algae starts to die off, all the oxygen is sucked out of the water by bacteria that decompose the dead algae. That leads to dead zones, and fish can no longer survive in the water.

The fish kill in the Dead Run wasn't caused by a natural thermal event. It wasn't caused by eutrophication, the algae bloom process described above. This environmental tragedy was caused by point-source pollution, and it was made worse by an inexcusably slow response time. People sometimes ask me, "What's the big deal about water main breaks? Why should we worry about clean water entering our streams?" This is why. Sensitive fish species were never meant to tolerate chlorinated water, and the benthic macroinvertebrates that live in the stream simply can't withstand the enormous volume of water that gushed through it as a result of this pipe break.

Four years ago, I saw an adult American eel in the Jones Falls stream near the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. They're an incredible fish species; they travel thousands of miles out to the Sargasso Sea, through buried streams in pitch black underground pipes, and return to their spawning grounds generation after generation. Seeing one of these creatures in the wild was an amazing experience, and I still remember it years later. We even published a blog on our website about the sighting, titled "Unexpected Visitors Bring Hope to the Jones Falls."¹ We

¹ Blue Water Baltimore. "Unexpected Visitors Bring Hope to the Jones Falls." August 2015. [<https://bluewaterbaltimore.org/blog/unexpected-visitor-brings-hope/>]

featured the story in our annual Report Card, since these animals are bellwethers of good stream habitat. When I learned that dozens of the fish killed as a result of this pipe break and the City's subsequent apathetic response were endangered American eel, I was devastated.

I understand that water main breaks happen. It's part of living in a city with ageing infrastructure. But the City's lackluster response to this event turned a bad situation into an ecological disaster. When a factory discharges heavy metals into the Harbor, they're held accountable. When somebody dumps motor oil into a storm drain, they're held accountable. The Baltimore City Department of Public Works, the agency in charge of our water pipes and the agency that allowed the Dead Run to be poisoned by chlorinated water for more than two days straight, must be held accountable.

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Alice Volpitta
Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper
Blue Water Baltimore
avolpitta@bluewaterbaltimore.org
410-254-1577 x111

Time line for the discovery and turn off of the water spill and fish Kill in the Dead Run river in September 2020

Saturday Morning

09/07/19 8 AM. George Farrant receives a phone call from Janet Westcott that the Dead Run stream was running high and very cloudy in Winans Meadow.

09/07/19 9AM George traces the Dead Run water running fast next to Bullwinkle's Bar on Franklinton and Ingelside Ave. He thinks it is sewer because stream is very cloudy. No fast water west of Bullwinkle's Bar.

09/07/19 9:15AM George Calls 311 in Baltimore City. He was told to call Baltimore County Sewer people He does.

09/07/19 11:00 George gets a call from a person from the Baltimore County Sewer Dept. He meets the man at the site and is told that the water is due to a water line brake. The man says he will call the Water dept in Baltimore County.

Sunday Morning

09/08/19 9:00 AM George goes to the site of the watermain brake. Water is still flowing fast He calls the Baltimore County Water Dept.

09/08/19 11:00 AM George gets a call from the Baltimore County dept at the watermain brake site. Man tells George that it is a 12 inch main and shows him the turnoff valve. He says he has not permission to turn it off.

09/08/19 4:00PM George returns to water main brake site water still running no one around.

Monday morning

09/09/19 9:00 AM George returns to watermain brake site. Sees a Baltimore County pickup truck: water still running fast.

09/09/19 3:30 PM George returns to site many people there. Water still running fast.

09/09/19 5:00 PM Water turned off contractors (Spinello) on site.

Handout 1-14-20
From: M. Collins (DPW)

CHRONOLOGY OF WATER LEAK REPAIR – INGLESIDE BRIDGE, BALTIMORE COUNTY

CCR 19-0183R

DATE	ACTIONS
Sept. 7, 2019	Call placed to Baltimore Co. for broken water main underneath Ingleside Avenue bridge in County Caller referred to Baltimore City; call placed to 311 City Maintenance inspector responds & confirms break
Sept. 9, 2019	Size & location of break triggers referral to OEC for repairs 2 PM: Contractor on site 3:45 PM: OEC and consulting engineer on site; Valve contractor prepares to isolate the leak on 12-inch main while contractor sets up bypass line Baltimore Co. Engineering & Construction on site to investigate bridge integrity; County traffic shut down bridge for safety MDE prepares a field report detailing the fish kill attributed to the release of chlorinated water into Dead Run (time not known) 5 PM: Main partially isolated, affecting 6 services 6:45 PM: Second valve closed to complete isolation of leak, affecting additional customers temporarily
Sept. 10, 2019	Decision to abandon 12-inch main, remove the tee connection
Sept. 11, 2019	Excavations and preparations for repair begin
Sept. 13, 2019	All repairs completed in the morning
Sept. 16, 2019	Valve contractor restored water to 20-inch main
Oct. 4, 2019	Planned shutdown scheduled and completed to renew service to 1620 St. Agnes Lane



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Resolution – Informational Hearing – Fish Kills	Resolution #: 19-0183R
Committee: Health	Chair: Kristerfer Burnett
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
George	Farrant	4613 BRIMCLIFF RD 21224 gfarrant@yahoo.com	✓				
Marcia	Collins	DPW					
Yosef	Kebede	DPW					
Anthony	Galloway	DPW					
Kim	Grove	DPW					
Dan	Sullivan	DPW					
Janelle	Mumme	DPW					
Alice	Volpitta	Blue Water Baltimore	✓				

*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Council Resolution – Informational Hearing – Fish Kills	Resolution #: 19-0183R
Committee: Health	Chair: Kristerfer Burnett
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020	Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Council Chamber	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	<u>Testify</u>	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jack	Lattimore	5408 W. North Ave Baltimore, MD 21207	✓				

*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Meeting Agenda - Final

Health

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

10:00 AM

Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall

19-0183R

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

19-0183R

Informational Hearing - Fish Kills

For the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

Sponsors:

Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, John T. Bullock, Bill Henry, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Sharon Green Middleton, Mary Pat Clarke, President Brandon M. Scott, Edward Reisinger

ADJOURNMENT

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Health Committee is to study, examine and propose regulations concerning health and environmental issues; and to make recommendations and propose legislation for improving the overall health and welfare of all residents of Baltimore City.

**The Honorable Kristerfer Burnett
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020
10:00 AM**

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council Resolution #19-0183R – Informational Hearing – Fish Kills

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

Eric Costello – Chair
Leon Pinkett – Vice Chair
Bill Henry
Sharon Green Middleton
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Shannon Sneed
Danielle McCray
Staff: Marguerite Currin

CYBERSECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Eric Costello – Co-chair
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer – Co-chair
Sharon Green Middleton
Staff: Samuel Johnson

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Zeke Cohen – Chair
Mary Pat Clarke – Vice Chair
John Bullock
Kristerfer Burnett
Leon Pinkett
Staff: Matthew Peters

EQUITY AND STRUCTURE

Bill Henry – Chair
Kristerfer Burnett – Vice Chair
Danielle McCray
Staff: Samuel Johnson

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Robert Stokes – Chair
Kristerfer Burnett – Vice Chair
Mary Pat Clarke
Zeke Cohen
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Staff: Marguerite Currin

HEALTH

Kristerfer Burnett – Chair
Bill Henry - Vice Chair
Mary Pat Clarke
Edward Reisinger
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Staff: Marguerite Currin

HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

John Bullock – Chair
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer – Vice Chair
Kristerfer Burnett
Zeke Cohen
Ryan Dorsey
Bill Henry
Shannon Sneed
Staff: Richard Krummerich

JUDICIARY

Eric Costello – Chair
Mary Pat Clarke – Vice Chair
John Bullock
Leon Pinkett
Edward Reisinger
Shannon Sneed
Robert Stokes
Staff: Matthew Peters

LABOR

Shannon Sneed – Chair
Robert Stokes – Vice Chair
Mary Pat Clarke
Bill Henry
Danielle McCray
Staff: Samuel Johnson

LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Kristerfer Burnett – Chair
Danielle McCray – Vice Chair
Ryan Dorsey
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer
Shannon Sneed
Staff: Matthew Peters

LAND USE

Edward Reisinger - Chair
Shannon Sneed – Vice Chair
Mary Pat Clarke
Eric Costello
Ryan Dorsey
Sharon Green Middleton
Leon Pinkett
Robert Stokes
Staff: Jennifer Coates

PUBLIC SAFETY

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer – Chair
Kristerfer Burnett – Vice Chair
Zeke Cohen
Danielle McCray
Leon Pinkett
Shannon Sneed
Staff: Richard Krummerich

TAXATION, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sharon Green Middleton – Chair
Danielle McCray – Vice Chair
Eric Costello
Edward Reisinger
Robert Stokes
Staff: Samuel Johnson
- Larry Greene (pension only)

TRANSPORTATION

Ryan Dorsey – Chair
Leon Pinkett – Vice Chair
John Bullock
Staff: Jennifer Coates

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health

Council Resolution: 19-0183R

Informational Hearing – Fish Kills

Sponsor: Councilmember Burnett, et al

Introduced: December 2, 2019

Purpose:

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

Effective: Upon enactment.

Agency Reports

Department of Public Works
Environmental Control Board

No Position

Analysis

Current Law

The Department of Public Works comprises the following Bureaus:

- Bureau of Solid Waste; and
- Bureau of Water and Wastewater.

The Department of Public Works protects, enhances, and restores the City's waterways. By federal and state regulation, Baltimore City must not only manage the amount of stormwater runoff that goes down our drains, but also ensure that it is cleaner when it reaches our waterways. Stormwater picks up oil, sediment, bacteria, trash, and other pollutants and sweeps it into the closest storm

drain, but by managing stormwater we can improve water quality and reduce flooding. In addition to maintaining inlets and pipes to direct the runoff, DPW is installing stormwater facilities (also known as Best Management Practices, or green infrastructure) to improve the quality of our polluted streams and Harbor. These services are funded by revenue from the stormwater fee, listed on water bills.¹

Public Local Laws – Subtitle 20 – Sewers

Editor's Note:

The Sewerage Commission referred to in this subtitle was abolished by Chapter 1, Acts of 1916. The Department of Public Works now performs the duties previously assigned to the Sewerage Commission.

Background

Per the primary sponsor of the Resolution, "the purpose of the hearing is to investigate a recent pipe break at Dead Run Stream *(See attached article dated September 13, 2019)*. This hearing is also an extension of prior conversations held regarding water/wastewater sewage backups."

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Council Resolution 19-0183R, Public Local Laws, attached news article from the Baltimore Brew and all agency reports received as of this writing.

Marguerite M. Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin
Direct Inquiries to: 443-984-3485

Analysis Date: January 10, 2020

¹ Department of Public Works website.

News Article - Baltimore Brew

Environment by Mark Reutter – September 13, 2019

Water main break causes fish kill in Leakin Park

EXCLUSIVE: About 2,000 fish, including the endangered American eel, are found dead after a city water pipe burst.

A Baltimore City pipe filled with chlorinated water – left to flow for 72 hours into a Leakin Park stream – has caused a major fish kill.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) confirmed to *The Brew* that it has found about 2,000 dead fish in a tributary of the Gwynns Falls.

They include white suckers, stonerollers, blacknose dace, longnose dace, creek chub, crayfish and – by far the most endangered species – American eel.

Canvassing the stream yesterday, *The Brew* saw mature eels, some 30 inches long, floating in Dead Run about a mile downstream from the pipe, located under the Ingleside Avenue bridge near Security Boulevard and Forest Park Avenue.

MDE spokesman Jay Apperson said the fish kill was caused by elevated levels of chlorination entering the stream from the broken pipe.

No Response from DPW

Baltimore's Department of Public Works has not confirmed the fish kill nor issued any public notification of the water break.

The agency yesterday sidestepped questions about the number of fish killed and the length of time it took before addressing the problem.

Instead, spokesman Jeffrey Raymond issued this statement: "It is my understanding that, after a report of a main break, the main was shut off Monday, and we are finalizing the process of abandoning the line because it is no longer necessary."

The water main break was discovered last Saturday by George Farrant, vice president of Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park (FOGFLP), a volunteer conservation group.

Three Days of Delays

Farrant told *The Brew* that he made repeated attempts on Saturday, Sunday and Monday to get Baltimore City, which owns the line, and Baltimore County, where the pipe was located, to shut the water off.

“My 311 calls to the city were worthless,” Farrant said, and it wasn’t until Monday evening that the flow of chlorinated water was turned off.

He recounted his experience after he was informed by a FOGFLP member on Saturday morning that Dead Run was running several inches above its normal level.

“BY THEN, I KNEW THE WATER HAD KILLED THE FISH.” – GEORGE FARRANT.

“I traced back the source of the flow to the Ingleside bridge, where I saw grayish-looking water, smelling of chlorine, gushing into the creek.

“I called 311. They told me the location was in Baltimore County, and I needed to contact Baltimore County. A county sewer guy did come out and meet me on Saturday. But he said this wasn’t a sewer problem, and they needed to get a water guy.

“So I met the water guy the next day [Sunday]. The water guy said he didn’t have authorization to turn off the valve because he was a county guy and not from the city. By then, I knew the water had killed the fish. There was a bad, rotten smell along Franklinton Road and in Winans Meadow.”

On Monday, Farrant again tried to get the county and city to take action.

“By 3 p.m., there were people at the bridge, but the water was still running. I came back around 8 p.m. and a Spiniello crew there. They had turned off the valve, and only a small amount of water was going into the stream.”

Chlorine Spills

Chlorinated water is considered a pollutant by MDE. The agency told *The Brew* yesterday that it had found that “Baltimore City DPW, as owner of the water

distribution system, to be in non-compliance based on our sampling results showing elevated levels of chlorine in the stream.”

What, exactly, non-compliance will mean to the city is unclear.

DPW SIDESTEPS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FISH KILL AND THE LENGTH OF TIME IT TOOK TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM.

Last year MDE cited the city **for dumping** as much as four times the legal limit of chlorinated water from the Druid Lake reservoir into the Jones Falls. (The city was discharging the water in order to start construction of underground tanks to comply with federal clean water regulations.)

Those discharges did not result in fines. Apperson said yesterday that MDE’s Water and Science Administration will continue to monitor the impact of the pipe break on aquatic life in Dead Run.

The Far-flung Life of an Eel

The most visible sign of that impact were the floating bodies of American eel along Dead Run.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has placed the eel on its **endangered list**, with a very high risk of extinction, due to loss of freshwater habitat and the overfishing in Maine and the Carolinas.

A smooth, snakelike fish with a brownish-yellow body, the American eel spends most of its life in fresh and brackish waters. It can reach up to five feet in length, but is rarely seen because it is a nocturnal creature that buries itself in silt and mud during the day.

The eels found dead this week in Leakin Park began life about 1,500 miles away in the Sargasso Sea, an area of the Atlantic Ocean east of the Bahamas.

The specie spawns there in the winter, producing tiny larvae that drift for months in the the ocean before they are carried to the U.S. coast by the Gulf Stream.

As the larvae transform into two-to-three-inch “glass eels” with transparent bodies, they swim toward rivers and bays – including the Chesapeake Bay – and, over time, become pigmented.

As they turn into adults, the eel head further inland in search of fresh water, deploying their unique ability to “crawl” through wet grass and mud to get around obstacles, including small dams.

Known to live for as many as 20 years before returning to spawn and die in the Sargasso Sea, they do have an Achilles heel: stream pollution.

Eels are vulnerable to even small doses of chemicals, and last weekend levels of chlorination considered harmless to humans proved fatal to those that had flourished in a forest stream in Leakin Park.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 19-0183R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Dorsey, Bullock, Henry, Pinkett, Middleton, Clarke,
President Scott, Councilmember Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: December 2, 2019

Assigned to: Health Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Public Works, Environmental Control
Board

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Fish Kills**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an
4 informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead
5 Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

6 **Recitals**

7 **WHEREAS**, A Baltimore City water pipe broke under the Ingleside Avenue Bridge in
8 Woodlawn and dumped over 10 million gallons of chlorinated water into Dead Run stream
9 between September 7 and September 9, 2019; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Dead fish were found along a 2-mile stretch of Dead Run stream below the pipe;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the spill killed nearly
13 2000 fish, including 78 of the endangered American eel; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The fish were discovered 2 days after George Farrant, Vice President of Friends
15 Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park, reported to the City that gray water that smelled strongly of chlorine
16 was rushing into the stream; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Maryland Department of the Environment found chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L,
18 or 8 times above the legal limit for a waterway, with chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L being
19 considered safe for human consumption; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The Maryland Department of the Environment found that the City Department of
21 Public Works, as owner of the pipe, was in non-compliance due to the elevated levels of chlorine
22 in the stream; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Last year the Maryland Department of the Environment cited the City for
24 dumping as much as 4 times the legal limit of chlorinated water from the Druid Lake reservoir
25 into the Jones Falls; and

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

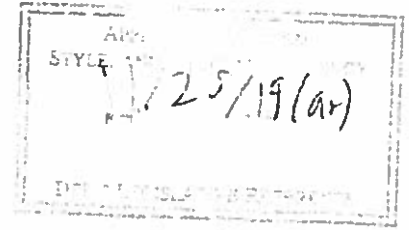
Council Bill 19-0183R

1 **WHEREAS**, The Baltimore City Council wants to know what the Department of Public Works
2 is doing to prevent fish kills and further spills of chlorinated water into streams and other bodies
3 of water.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
5 Council requests the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational
6 hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and
7 killed 2000 fish.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the
9 Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

INTRODUCTORY*
CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL _____R
(Resolution)



Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Informational Hearing – Fish Kills

FOR the purpose of requesting the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

Recitals

WHEREAS, A Baltimore City water pipe broke under the Ingleside Avenue Bridge in Woodlawn and dumped over 10 million gallons of chlorinated water into Dead Run stream between September 7 and September 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Dead fish were found along a 2-mile stretch of Dead Run stream below the pipe; and

WHEREAS, According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the spill killed nearly 2000 fish, including 78 of the endangered American eel; and

WHEREAS, The fish were discovered 2 days after George Farrant, Vice President of Friends Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park, reported to the City that gray water that smelled strongly of chlorine was rushing into the stream; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Department of the Environment found chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L, or 8 times above the legal limit for a waterway, with chlorine levels of 0.78 mg/L being considered safe for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of the Environment found that the City Department of Public Works, as owner of the pipe, was in non-compliance due to the elevated levels of chlorine in the stream; and

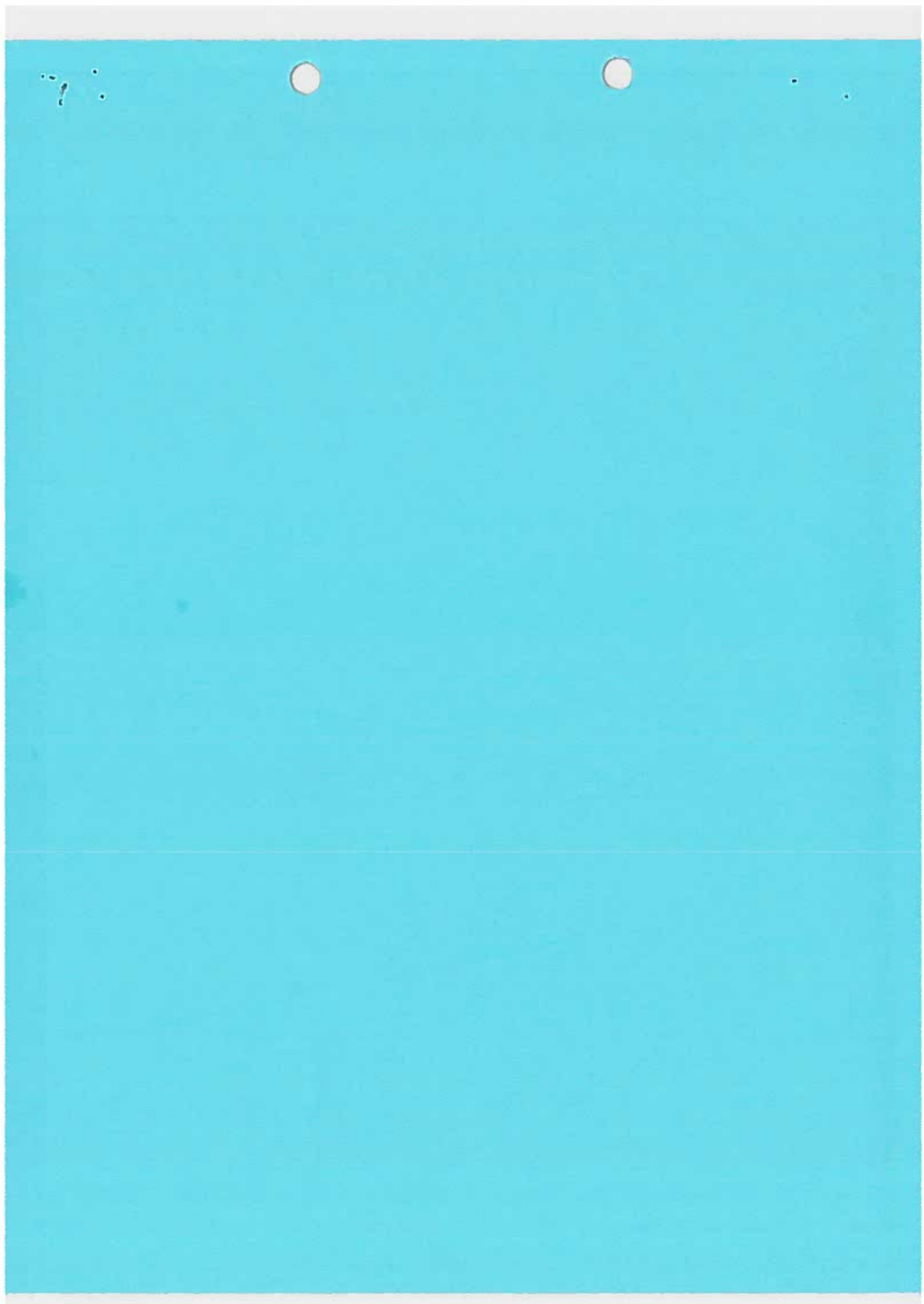
WHEREAS, Last year the Maryland Department of the Environment cited the City for dumping as much as 4 times the legal limit of chlorinated water from the Druid Lake reservoir into the Jones Falls; and

* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.

WHEREAS, The Baltimore City Council wants to know what the Department of Public Works is doing to prevent fish kills and further spills of chlorinated water into streams and other bodies of water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the City Council requests the Director of the Department of Public Works to testify at an informational hearing regarding a recent pipe break that spilled chlorinated water into Dead Run stream and killed 2000 fish.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Director of the Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.



ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL

DEC 02 2019
20

FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) _____

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON January 14, 2020 _____ 20

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF January 27, 2020 _____ 20

FAVORABLE _____ UNFAVORABLE _____ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED _____ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

[Signature]
Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

JAN 27 2020
20

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING _____ 20

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) _____ 20

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) _____ 20

WITHDRAWAL _____ 20

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.

President

Chief Clerk